

investment in medical research, in education, in health care facilities, in transportation, we have declined economically as a nation. The middle class is under fire. We are not able to build and produce the way we could have if we had kept this infrastructure up to date.

That is the importance of the FAST Act. It is the importance of much of the rest of the jobs bills we have pushed in this Congress. We know that every \$1 billion in school renovation can create 10,000 jobs.

The FAST Act includes strong "Buy American" provisions to ensure that Ohio construction workers, for instance—we are the third leading manufacturing State in the country, exceeded only by Texas, twice the size of California—three times the size—building technicians, boiler repairmen, roofers, painters, electricians, and people who manufacture these products are using American-made products.

The FAST Act is included in President Obama's American Jobs Act. Under his proposal, Ohio would receive some \$985 million in funding for K-12 schools and an additional \$148 million for Ohio's community colleges. Ohio has one of the best community college networks in the country.

It is obvious our schools need fixing. Our workers need work. Interest rates are low. Construction companies want to put people to work and, competing with each other, will bid as low as they likely will in the next decade or two, so now is the time to do this.

This bill has been endorsed by some 50 organizations: the American Association of School Administrators, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the Building & Construction Trades, First Focus Campaign for Children, and the Parent Teacher Association, the PTA. They agree it is about jobs, about education, and our Nation's future. I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation.

Lastly, I wish to read a couple letters I received about this legislation. First is Jeannine from Strongsville, OH. She is a teacher:

I have taught at the same middle school for 24 years. During that time, I have watched our building physically deteriorate before my eyes.

Strongsville is what we would call, by most measurements, one of Cleveland's more affluent suburbs. Nonetheless, she has seen it physically deteriorate in 24 years of teaching.

The leaky roof leaves stains on the ceilings and the floors. Often the heating doesn't work.

Two years ago, my classroom had no heat in December. We are a suburb of Cleveland, so do I need to tell you how cold it was in there?

After more than two decades with no money for paint, our vice principal asked Home Depot for help—it donated enough paint to spruce up the hallways, offices, and a handful of classrooms.

She writes:

Does it sound like I teach in the inner-city or an extreme rural area in Ohio?

She doesn't. She teaches in what we would call an affluent suburb of Cleveland.

I teach in a suburban community where many of the houses sell for around \$300,000 or more. But the community has not passed a levy in a while.

I pay 20% toward my health insurance . . .

My colleagues may remember that Governor Kasich had just pushed through a bill to take away collective bargaining rights for people such as Jeannine, saying they should be paying more of their health care. They have already made those concessions at the bargaining table. That is why Jeannine says she pays 20 percent toward her health insurance. She says:

10% toward my retirement, and [I] have not seen a pay increase in years.

I really love what I do, but am despondent at times about the lack of community support for education.

That is a whole other issue. But we do know we can make a difference in making not just Jeannine's life better—that is a goal we should share—but, most importantly, making teacher morale, student morale, teacher effectiveness, and student learning significantly better.

The last letter I will share is from Erin from Columbus, OH. She is a special ed teacher. She writes:

Of our 14 schools, 5 are currently undergoing the last of a 2 year renovation project.

We had schools where walls were literally falling in, we were in urgent need of these repairs.

Now, we find ourselves lacking in technology, and are in need of updating these needs, in order to compete with the ever changing needs of the demands of the workplace that our students will be entering.

Investments in education such as targeted resources for school and campus repair and modernization will jump start the economy and ensure students the learning environments so essential to their success.

Our student day is now shorter, all in an effort to save money.

Think about this: They are making the schoolday shorter when we are talking, in the paragraph before in her letter, about: How do we compete internationally? We are going to make our schoolday shorter when already we go to school—I think the former Denver school superintendent, the Presiding Officer, would confirm this—fewer days than many of our economic competitors. So because of costs, because we need to continue to give tax breaks to the wealthiest people in this country, we cannot fund the kinds of things we want to fund in education to compete internationally.

In the end, Erin writes:

It's the students that lose, and our educators know this, and [we all] strive each and every day to reach every single student, with the ever increasing demands put upon them.

She writes:

The FAST Act will make sure that our students have the learning environments they need and deserve.

My words may have, I hope, convinced some of my colleagues. I hope the words, the two letters from Jean-

nine and Erin—Jeannine from a Cleveland suburb; Erin, a central Ohio teacher, both with long experience in the classroom—I hope their words were compelling enough so my colleagues will join me in supporting the FAST Act, getting it through the Senate—not filibustering it. Let's debate it, talk about it, vote on it up or down, and send it to the House. I hope we get it to the President by the end of the year so we can start putting people back to work doing the school renovation, putting our factory workers back to work making the windows and cement and brick and all we need in school construction and school renovation and making a difference for our students in the decades ahead.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PASSAGE OF S. RES. 199

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to express my appreciation for the passage of S. Res. 199 by unanimous consent last night. This resolution supports the goals and ideals of Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week.

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, known collectively as inflammatory bowel disease, are chronic disorders of the gastrointestinal tract which afflict approximately 1.4 million Americans, 30 percent of whom are diagnosed in their childhood years. IBD can cause severe abdominal pain, fever, and intestinal bleeding. Complications related to IBD can include: arthritis, osteoporosis, anemia, liver disease, growth and developmental challenges, and colorectal cancer. Inflammatory bowel disease is being diagnosed with increased frequency in children and can be especially devastating for these young patients and their families.

Despite the prevalence of IBD, a lack of awareness among both the general public and health professionals may contribute to the misdiagnosis and mismanagement of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. S. Res. 199 will support efforts to increase awareness and education about these illnesses. It will also recognize the individuals and families who must contend with IBD as part of their daily lives, as well as the health care professionals who care for

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis patients and the biomedical researchers who work to advance research aimed at the development of new treatments and a cure for these illnesses. The passage of this resolution will give hope to millions of Americans struggling with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis—particularly young children—that we will continue to focus our attention on these very difficult conditions.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ELDRÉD MUSGROVE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a very fine Kentuckian and World War II veteran, Mr. Eldred Musgrove of McCreary County, KY. Eldred, who is now 91, has played an instrumental role in developing many of the basic services that are currently enjoyed by the citizens of McCreary County, KY.

Eldred was raised in Strunk, KY, in a house just behind the old Lum Strunk homeplace. As a teenager, he became familiar with responsibility and hard work. The oldest of six, by the time he was 14, Eldred remembers having to help raise his brothers and sisters after their mother passed away. He recalls carrying his 3-year-old baby brother to his grandmother's each morning and returning each afternoon to pick him up, before walking a mile himself just to get to school each day.

"When I was 16, I worked my first 'real' job," Eldred explains. At the time, ex-county sheriff Neil Stephens owned a sawmill that was located up above the Marsh Creek Schoolhouse. "He paid me 10 cents an hour to roll logs down for him to saw," Eldred says. As a result, Eldred developed a resilient worth ethic, which would eventually help pave the way to a long and successful career in community service.

Eldred met Sophie, who is 90 years old and his wife of 64 years, while they attended school together at Pine Knot as kids. "I didn't pay any attention to her when we were in school!" he recalls. After he returned home from the military, though, Eldred got a job working at the Ford garage in Stearns and began to see Sophie as he drove home from work each day. They began dating and have been happily married ever since.

Not long after they wed, Eldred began taking a more active role in the community. "I became a charter member of the Pine Knot Kiwanis Club in 1950," he remembers. Eldred and the organization were very active for several years, selling stock, helping to establish the county's first dial-telephone company, and even playing an instrumental role in helping to build the first Pine Knot fire truck. In 1967, Eldred helped form the McCreary County Fire Commission and served as the board chairman for the South McCreary County Fire Department for many years.

Eldred also served as one of three original water commissioners for the McCreary County Water District. Eldred presided over the Pine Knot portion of the district he helped create. In his later years, he became involved with the McCreary County Development Association, and also served as a member of McCreary County's first airport board, where he helped develop a local runway. Additionally, Eldred has also been a member of the McCreary County Industrial Development Association, the first Stearns Museum Board, and the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation for 31 years.

These days, the Musgrove home is decorated with countless photographs, certificates, and awards including a picture of Eldred shaking President Bill Clinton's hand that serve as a reminder of Mr. Musgrove's many successes and achievements throughout the years. However, Eldred admits that he is not yet finished. "I still have a job to do. My job may be taking care of my wife, writing letters to congressmen, or erecting a monument. All I know is that I still have a job to do."

Mr. President, Mr. Eldred Musgrove's long life of selflessness and service to McCreary County and his fellow Kentuckians is truly admirable. Mr. Musgrove is a true American patriot and an inspiration to the people of our great Commonwealth. A local newspaper, the McCreary County Voice, published an article on October 20, 2011, to celebrate Mr. Musgrove's many accomplishments in life. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the McCreary County Voice, Oct. 20, 2011]

MAKING A DIFFERENCE (By Eugenia Jones)

You may or may not be personally acquainted with Eldred Musgrove, but if you are a resident of McCreary County, the energetic 91-year-old probably touches your life on a daily basis. Not only did he serve his country in World War II, but Musgrove, throughout his life, has been instrumental in the development of many of the basic services currently enjoyed by citizens of the county.

Growing up in Strunk, Kentucky, in a house just behind the old Lum Strunk homeplace, Eldred probably did not see himself becoming such a civic-minded adult. At the age of 14 and as the oldest of six children, Eldred helped to take care of his brothers and sisters when his mother died. He recalls walking more than a mile to school each day because there were no school buses. On his way to school, Eldred would carry his three-year-old baby brother to his grandmother's house and then return on his way back home from school to carry the toddler home. Eldred grins, "I've never had a chance to study, but I still managed to make Cs throughout school. When I got home, instead of studying, I had to take care of the stove wood. My dad was rather thrifty, but he managed to take care of us. Dad worked some in coal, and later, he went together with his brother and bought a 1933 model Chevrolet truck to haul stone for building

schools through the WPA. Dad was also good at making moonshine stills and made them for everybody around. He had customers from as far away as Lexington and Cincinnati. I wanted to go into the CCC, but dad wouldn't let me."

As a teenager, Eldred was not afraid of hard work. When he was 12 years old, Musgrove sold "Grit" newspapers to people all over the southern end of the county. Musgrove shares his memories of one special customer. "I remember one customer in particular. His name was Andy Galimore. He was a Spanish-American War veteran. He lived up on a ridge across the railroad at Pine Knot. He had a vineyard, and he would let me pick all the grapes that I wanted. Andy Galimore must have been a secretary or something like that for his unit, because he had a roster of names that he let me see. The roster listed the names of men and told different types of information about them. It told when the men were absent, when they were promoted, and all of the different things they did in the service."

"When I was 16, I worked my first 'real' job. I worked for Neil Stephens, who was an ex-county sheriff living on Cal Hill. His sawmill was up above the Marsh Creek Schoolhouse. He paid me 10 cents an hour to roll logs down for him to saw. The mill used a steam boiler, and they had to get up steam in order to saw. I also carried drinking water. I didn't get money for pay. I got a slip to take to Manuel Creedmoor's (O.K.'s) store to buy things. I bought school clothes."

Eldred met the now 90-year-old Sophie, his wife of 64 years, while they attended the Pine Knot School together. He laughs, "I didn't pay any attention to her when we were in school! When I came back home from the military, I got a job at the Ford garage in Stearns. She walked home from where she worked, and I drove home from my work in an old pickup truck. We started meeting. I'd toot the horn and wave at her. Finally, I asked her to go to the show with me. We went from there by going out to a show together and ended up where we are now by being married for 64 years! I don't remember the name of the show, but I do remember going to pick her up one time. There was a store sitting up on the corner of the road going to her house. There was a big long bench outside. The road to Sophie's house was so bad that I couldn't drive out it so she would meet me at the store. One time I was sitting on the bench waiting on her and another fellow was sitting there talking to me. He said he had a date with a "Meadows" girl. I said, 'Well, I do too!' It wasn't long before Sophie showed up with her sister as a date for the other fellow!"

After Eldred and Sophie married, Eldred began taking an active role in trying to serve his community. He remembers the influence of the Kiwanis Club during the early development of the county. "I became a charter member of the Pine Knot Kiwanis Club in 1950. The club was very active for a few years. Pine Knot, at that time, had only 12 telephones on two party lines. The Kiwanis Club started selling stock and formed the first dial-telephone company in the county. The company had 128 customers and was doing well. However, we couldn't afford a full-time maintenance man. When the Highland Telephone Company offered 150 percent on our stock, we ended up selling out to them. We made sure that we sold under the condition that we would get free service all across McCreary County and in Scotty County. I remember some of the board members when the phones were with the Kiwanis. I was on the board, as well as Leon Hayes, Gorman Strunk, Harold Hickman, Smith Ross, Autis Ross, and Ralph Chaney."

The Kiwanis were also instrumental in helping to build the first Pine Knot fire